

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1715

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US SO

SUBJ: US-SOMALI RELATIONS

REF: DAKAR 1388

1. WHILE WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT PROMPTED SOMALI CHARGE NUR IN DAKAR TO TAKE INITIATIVE WITH AMBASSADOR AGGREY REGARDING BETTERMENT OF US RELATIONS WITH GSDR, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL AGREE THAT AGGREY SHOULD RESPOND FRANKLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY IN LINE WITH US ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE ANYONE IN GSDR WHO SEEKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US.

2. IMPORTANT THAT NUR HAVE RECORD SET STRAIGHT REGARDING BILATERAL AID. CONTRARY HIS ASSERTION THAT FLAG SHIPPING QUESTION NO LONGER IS OBSTACLE, RELEVANT AMENDMENTS (620 A AND N) ARE STILL PART OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE FOR NEXT 18 MONTHS. ON SOMALI SIDE, WE VERY DOUBTFUL THEY WILL TAKE STEPS TO STOP SOMALI-FLAF SHIPS TRADING WITH NORTH VIET-NAM AND CUBA (SOMALI RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAVE STRENGTHENED: AT MOMENT THERE IS CUBAN SHIP, VIET-NAM HEROICO, IN PORT HERE).

3. SECOND POINT IS THAT EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT HAVE BY WORD AND ACTION CONSISTENTLY INDICATED THAT WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST

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PRESENT SOMALI REGIME AND ARE WORKING FOR BETTER RELATIONS. WE

HAVE CONTINUED ACTIVE USIS LIBRARY AND MEDIA PROGRAM HERE, HAVE SUPPLIED SPORTS COACHES AND OFFERED VARIETY OF LEADER GRANTS. WE HAVE URGED THAT SRC MEMBERS VISIT US AND GIVEN VIP TREATMENT TO THE ONE MEMBER WHO CAME. THUS, INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN MADE; PROBLEM IS THAT GSDR HAS NOT RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO SUCH INITIATIVES.

4. ONE CONCRETE STEP WHICH WE ANXIOUS TO TAKE TO SYMBOLIZE CONTINUING US PRESENCE IN SOMALIA AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GSDR IS COMPLETION OF NEW CHANCERY. WORK HAD BEEN STOPPED ON THIS FBO PROJECT BECAUSE OF SOMALI EXPULSION OF ORIGINAL PROJECT SUPERVISOR AND DISAGREEMENT ON SIZE OF PROJECT AND COMPOUND. LAST SUMMER, IN BELIEF WE HAD GSDR AGREEMENT TO RESUME CONSTRUCTION, FBO TEAM CAME OUT TO NEGOTIATE NEW CONTRACTS. GSDR THEN REFUSED RENEW RESIDENT PERMIT OF SECOND FBO PROJECT SUPERVISOR. MATTER NOW PENDING EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH MOFA AND MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS. IF NUR AND OTHERS SINCERELY BELIEVE IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, THIS WOULD BE GOOD PLACE TO START.

5. OTHER AREAS IN WHICH SOMALIS COULD HELP IN IMPROVEMENT RELATIONS ARE LIBERALIZING OF VISAS FOR OFFICIAL AMERICANS VISITING SOMALIA, RECOGNITION OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF AS PROVIDED FOR IN VIENNA CONVENTION, LIBERALIZING ACCESS TO SOMALI OFFICIALS FOR AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF, AND PROVISION OF FREE CUSTOMS ENTRY FOR MISSION PERSONNEL.

6. BASIC CHANNELS FOR DISCUSSION US-SOMALI RELATIONS OBVIOUSLY MOGADISCIO AND WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, WE SEE NO HARM AND INDEED SOME UTILITY IN HAVING SOMALI CHARGE DAKAR RELAY THESE POINTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

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